

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9763

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, KS

SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF

SUMMARY: CODEL WOLFF, COMPRISED OF REPRESENTATIVES WOLFF, RANGEL, AND STARK AND HFAC STAFF CONSULTANT, DR. JOHN BRADY, VISITED SEOUL AUGUST 23-26. WHILE FOCUS THEIR PROGRAM WAS ON NARCOTICS, REPRESENTATIVE WOLFF ALSO DISCUSSED DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING KOREA WITH PRESIDENT PARK (REPORTED SEPTELS) AND KNRC NEGOTIATOR AT RED CROSS TALKS, LEE BUM SUK, ALL THREE CONGRESSMEN CALLED ON MINISTER OF DEFENSE YU. REPRESENTATIVES RANGEL AND STARK SPENT MUCH OF THEIR TIME QUESTIONING BOTH US AND KOREAN OFFICIALS ON RATIONALE FOR RETAINING US TROOPS IN KOREA. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY NARCOTICS BRIEFING FOR CODEL WOLFF OUTLINED MISSION AND USMILITARY ANTI-NARCOTIC EFFORTS. IT EMPHASIZED THAT KOREA DID NOT YET APPEAR TO BE
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LINKED TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND

THAT KEY PROBLEMS AMONG US TROOPS AND DEPENDENTS CONTINUED TO BE WIDESPREAD AVAILABILITY OF LOCALLY MANUFACTURED MARIJUANA, BARBITURATES AND AMPHETAMINES WITH ONLY MINOR EVIDENCE HEROIN MANUFACTURE, AVAILABILITY, OR USE. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT LARGE CONCENTRATION US TROOPS MADE KOREA POTENTIAL TARGET HOWEVER, AND THAT HE WAS PRESSING FOR EARLY ARRIVAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (DEA) AGENT TO HELP, PARTICULARLY IN INTELLIGENCE COORDINATION EFFORTS. DEA REPRESENTATIVE FROM TOKYO WHO CAME TO SEOUL FOR CODEL WOLFF VISIT ALOS POINTED OUT JAPANESE CONCERN OVER GROWING TRAFFIC IN KOREAN MANUFACTURED AMPHETAMINES.

2. ROKG NARCOTICS BRIEFING AT MINISTRY HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS WAS ATTENDED BY CONGRESSMEN RANGEL AND STARK AND BRIEFLY BY MR. WOLFF. KOREANS STRESSED TOUGHNESS OF THEIR NEW NARCOTICS LAWS, SHARP RECENT DECLINE IN NUMBERS OF DETECTED OFFENCES AND ARRESTS, AND THEIR OPINION THAT ONLY REAL PROBLEM WAS CAUSED BY PRESENCE OF US MILITARY. MILDLY CHALLENGING LATTER VIEW CONGRESSMAN RANGEL AND DEA TOKYO REP QUIZZED KOREANS HARD ON EVIDENCES OF LOCAL POPPY GROWING AND HEROIN MANUFACTURE. RANGEL LATER TOLD EMBOFF THAT KOREAN CONCLUSIONS PROBABLY BASICALLY JUSTIFIED BUT THAT THEY SEEMED OVERLY SMUG.

3. MINISTER DEFENSE YU TOOK OCCASION CONGRESSMENS' COURTESY CALL TO COMPLAIN ABOUT FAILURE US PROVIDE "PROMISED" O AND M FUNDS UNDER MAP PROGRAM AND TO CRITICIZE JAPANESE FOR "HIGHLY IMPOLITE" AND UNACCEPTABLE REMARKS REGARDING KIM TAE CHUNG CASE. AMBASSADOR LEE BUM SUK GAVE WOLFF COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW RED CROSS TALKS. IN BRIEFINGS, CONGRESSMEN STARK AND RANGEL QUESTIONED NEED FOR US TROOP PRESENCE IN ROK. IN ADDITION MILITARY ASPECTS COVERED BY UNC, AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED GENERAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATION RE US TROOP PRESENCE WITH CONGRESSMEN. ON DEPARTURE BOTH INDICATED THEY HAD BETTER

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APPRECIATION RATIONALE FOR US TROOPS PRESENCE AND WERE NOT SO SKEPTICAL OF NEED FOR TROOPS AS ON ARRIVAL.

4. AT CONCLUDING PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 25, MR. WOLFF STRESSED THAT, WHILE HE WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT NARCOTICS CONTROL PROBLEMS IN SOME COUNTRIES HE HAD VISITED ON THIS TRIP, HE WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE COOPERATION OF KOREAN GOVERNMENT. HIS

PERSONAL VIEW, HE SAID, WAS THAT CONGRESS SHOULD
CONSIDER USING TRADE AND FOREIGN AID LEGISLATION TO
APPLY PRESSURE TO COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT ASSIST US IN
NARCOTICS CONTROL.

5. COMMENT: WE EXPECT CODEL WILL RECONFIRM FINDINGS
IN CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S JULY REPORT ON EASY
ASIAN NARCOTICS THAT KOREA REPRESENTS RELATIVELY MINOR
ASPECT OF DRUG PROBLEM AND THAT ROKG IS CONTINUING TO
DO GOOD JOB OF COOPERATING WITH US IN CONTROLLING
GROWTH OF TRAFFIC.
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